

Sub B<sup>11</sup> → 27. A hypervelocity particle shield, comprising:

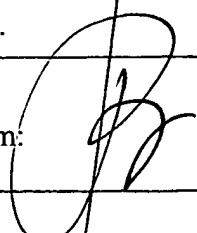
2 a plurality of spaced apart flexible shield layers, at least one of which is made of a  
3 flexible ceramic fabric;

4 a resilient support layer between adjacent ones of the flexible shield layers, the resilient  
5 support layer including at least one space qualified foam layer, wherein the at least one flexible  
6 shield layer has an areal density that is substantially equal to a predetermined constant times a  
7 hypervelocity particle's cubic density multiplied by its diameter;

8 at least one thermal insulation layer disposed on the plurality of flexible shield layers;

9 a vented, abrasion resistant protective cover configured to enclose the flexible shield  
10 layers and having an absorptivity to emissivity ratio selected to provide a predetermined level of  
11 thermal protection; and

12 fasteners attached to the protective cover and capable of releasably securing the flexible  
13 shield layers to a structure to be protected.

✓ Please add the following new claim: 

1 35. The particle shield of claim 1, wherein the protective cover is optically absorptive.

1 36. A particle shield, comprising:

2 a plurality of flexible shield layers;

3 a resilient support layer between adjacent ones of the flexible shield layers;

4 a protective cover configured to enclose the flexible shield layers;

5 a plurality of vent holes formed in a periphery of the protective cover; and

6 fasteners attached to the protective cover and capable of releasably securing the flexible  
7 shield layers to a structure to be protected.

1 37. A particle shield, comprising:

2 a plurality of flexible shield layers;

3 a resilient support layer between adjacent ones of the flexible shield layers;

4 a protective cover configured to enclose the flexible shield layers;